



United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
United States Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service



Fish and Wildlife Service
510 Desmond Drive S.E., Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503

National Marine Fisheries Service
510 Desmond Drive S.E., Suite 103
Lacey, Washington 98503

JUL 29 1999

Marcia Lagerloef
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Ave.
Seattle, WA 98101



Re: Consultation on Water Quality Standards

Dear Ms. Lagerloef:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) received your letter requesting a list of threatened and endangered species that may be found in the waters of the state of Washington. The species list request letter pertained to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7 consultation on Washington State water quality standards revisions that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved on February 6, 1998, (Phase I). The EPA's conditional approval recognized that the section 7 consultation "might necessitate... reconsideration of the approval action".

We are aware that the state of Washington is currently involved in another revision of their water quality standards (Phase II) and is intending to adopt a final rule by the end of 1999. At present they are poised to release numerous technical documents for review, and will be developing draft rule language during the summer/fall of 1999. We plan to be involved early in this effort in order to improve on the process that is currently ongoing with the section 7 consultation for the state of Oregon water quality standards.

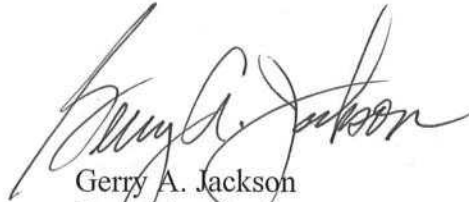
In an effort to gain efficiencies for our already over-taxed resources, and given that NMFS and the FWS will be participating in the Phase II review, we recommend a delay of the Phase I section 7 consultation. We propose combining Phases I and II into a single section 7 consultation which captures all issues related to all species of concern at one time. This approach appears to be in everyone's best interest.

We would like to hear from you on the approach you believe to be most efficient to conduct the section 7 consultations for both Phases I and II. Please contact Rachel Friedman at (360) 753-4063, and Denise Baker at (360) 753-5821 with questions and comments.

Sincerely,



Steven W. Landino
Washington State Habitat Branch Chief
National Marine Fisheries Service



Gerry A. Jackson
Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Western Washington Office

db/vr

c: Rachel Friedman, NMFS
Denise Baker, FWS



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue
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Reply To
Attn Of: OW - 134

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National Marine Fisheries Service
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Gerry A. Jackson
Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Western Washington Office
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Dear Mr. Landino and Mr. Jackson:

I am responding to the letter I received from you on August 12, 1999, regarding combining the Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations on Phase I and Phase II of the Washington triennial review of water quality standards. I have been discussing this approach with Rachel Friedman and Denise Baker and concur with you that this approach makes sense in terms of gaining staff efficiency in the process. I have also checked out this approach with the State and they concur with combining the two consultations. That said, we may need to revisit this strategy if the Phase II triennial review adoption is delayed beyond the end of December 2000.

Regarding the Phase II triennial review, I would like to schedule a meeting towards the end of October to discuss how we approach the consultation on the temperature criteria that Washington proposes to adopt. As you are probably aware, the ESA consultation on the Oregon water quality standards that was completed in July 1999, resulted in reasonable and prudent measures that included a Regional Temperature Criteria Development Project. This project is chaired by EPA, with NMFS and USFWS participation, and is slated to complete its work in two years. At that time the aim is to have a revised approach to temperature criteria for protection of salmonids in the Northwest. Washington has agreed to fully participate in the Temperature Criteria Development Project. We are seeking to focus our staff resources as much as possible on the Criteria Development Project to meet its ambitious goals and timelines. Therefore, we would like to discuss options with you that might include a more streamlined consultation for the temperature portion of Washington's Phase II review.

I will be out of the office the weeks of October 11 and 18, returning on October 25. I will get in touch with you at that time to see if we can arrange a meeting or telephone conference in the latter part of October or early November.

Sincerely,



Marcia G. Lagerloef
Water Quality Standards Coordinator

cc: Rachel Friedman, NMFS
Denise Baker, USFWS
Mark Hicks, Ecology